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DE RUEHSO #0499 2311647
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9520
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0654
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9234

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000499

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; SAO
PAULO

August 19, 2009

Title- The never ending war

Op-ed in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (8-19) by Washington's correspondent Sergio Davila says:"...If there is one characteristic that differentiates Barack Obama from his predecessor.....it is the Democrat's healthy habit of telling the truth to the public - always when possible..... [When Obama said the Afghan war would not be easy or rapid] he should have also said that the second conflict [the first being the one in Iraq] cannot be won. Fighting against Al Qaeda is like fighting the law of gravity.....If everything goes as the White House expects, [the current President Hamid] Karzai will win the [elections].....This would push Al Qaeda even more into neighboring Pakistan. And this would then be the new chapter in the never ending war."
WHITE